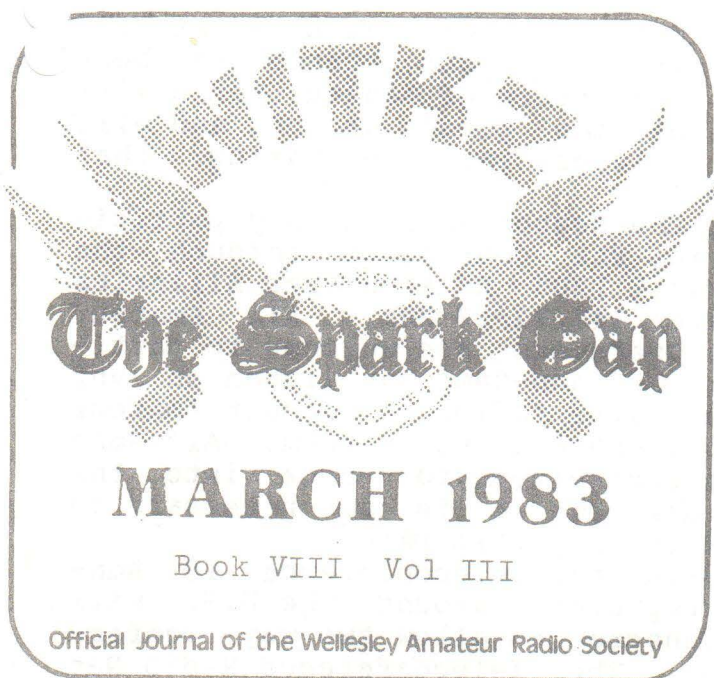




It Seems to Me...

by Nels Anderson, KLUR

After some ten years of trying to win our approval, the FCC is just about ready to force a no code license on us whether we like it or not. Their latest proposal (see bulletin on page 2) does not ask whether or not there should be a no code license but only what form the no code license will take. Their two proposals are to simply eliminate the code test from the current Technician class, or to have a completely new experimenters class with a tougher theory test and privileges at 144 MHz and above.

March QST will have a discussion of this document (NPRM 83-28) as well as information on how you can comment on it to the FCC. Judging by a discussion of this topic at a recent meeting, most of you are probably very much opposed to a no code license, hopefully enough so that you will take the time required to write to the FCC and try to stop it, or at least shape it into a form as acceptable as possible.

When you write, first of all if you are opposed to any kind of no code li-

cense, say so, even though the FCC does not seem to be listening to this opinion any more.

If you want a no code license, or feel that we are getting one no matter what, describe what shape you think this license should take, especially in regards to the experimenters license proposal since this is the least defined. Discuss what frequencies and modes you think no code licensees should have. For example, do you want these people on your favorite two meter repeater?

In regards to the proposal to make the Technician a no code license, there is a problem. Current Technicians have privileges on the HF bands. According to international regulations, a licensee must pass a code test to operate below 30 MHz. Thus, if the Technician is to become a no code license, Technicians, at least the new ones, cannot be allowed on HF. Does this mean that current Technicians lose their HF privileges or are they really talking about a new license class?

There is a lot to think about, and this is a very important proposal to the future of Amateur Radio. If you care about the future of your hobby, please read the text of this proposal in the March QST and write to the FCC about how you feel. If you don't, you have no right to complain when a license you disapprove of is initiated.

Elections

It is time to start thinking about nominations for next year's officers. C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, our election committee chairman, would like to solicit nominations at this time. If you have anyone in mind, please contact C.J. at a club meeting or at home at 332-6091 or 48 Hale Street, Newton, Mass. 02164.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH: _____

March 3, 1983, at 7:30 p.m.

March 17, 1983, at 7:30 p.m.

Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Number 9, dated January 24, 1983:

The FCC has announced that a third party traffic agreement is now in effect between the United States and St. Vincent, prefix J8. Please add St. Vincent to the list of third party traffic agreements appearing on page 96 of the November 1982 issue of QST.

Number 11, dated February 1, 1983:

The FCC has released the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to establish an Amateur Radio operator license class which would not require any demonstrated ability to send or receive Morse code. The so called codeless license proposal seeks to create one of two possible new classes of Amateur license. One alternative would be the Technician class without the five word per minute Morse code examination. This license would carry all Amateur privileges above 50 MHz. The second alternative would be an Experimenter class. This license would require passing a theory test which would require knowledge of digital and other Amateur techniques and would grant all Amateur privileges above 144 MHz. FCC seeks comments on this proposal, especially views on the composition of the new theory test for the proposed Experimenter class. It also seeks comments on the frequency privileges to be given to either a Codeless Technician or Experimenter class. Comment deadline is April 29, 1983. Replies are due May 31. March 1983 QST will carry the entire text of this proposal, including information on how to file comments with the FCC. The docket number is 83-28.

**FROM THE
MAILBAG**



You are invited to listen and talk to Vic Clark, W4KFC, President of the ARRL, when he discusses "The Future of Amateur Radio" on the Teleconference

Radio Net, Thursday, March 3, at 8:15 p.m. This is your chance to hear about the future of Amateur Radio direct from the person who has and will play a large part in making that future!

In the Boston area you may participate in the conference through the Honeywell 1200 RC sponsored Billerica repeater 147.72/12 MHz. All Amateur radio operators are welcome to participate and non-Hams may listen on vhf scanner type radios or contact Amateur Radio operators near them. All Amateurs are welcome to check into the net, however it is not necessary to check in to participate.

During the teleconference 18 Amateur repeaters around the U.S. will be connected to allow two way conferencing. The Teleconference Radio Net uses the latest multi-point teleconferencing technology to tie together repeaters across the U.S. The objective is to allow hams to listen and talk to leaders and experts from Amateur Radio, scientific and electronic communities. Typically, more than 2000 Amateurs are tuned into the speaker for questions and discussion.

For more information, please contact me at 28 Cedar Lane, North Andover, Mass. 01845, telephone 686-4711.

73 de Dave Meldrum, K1MI
President 1200 RC

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450

VICE PRESIDENT:

Roger Smith, W1EOA, 235-6239

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Skid Schermerhorn, W1TTY, 235-1987

TREASURER:

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091

FUND RAISING:

Kevin Kelly, W1YHV, 242-0341

OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, 653-1216

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR:

NELS J. ANDERSON, K1UR
92 BISHOP DRIVE
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701
872-5259

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



Minutes

Meeting of January 20, 1983:

The meeting was opened at 7:48 p.m. by President David Curry, K1TK, with ten present.

The Secretary's report was given.

The Treasurer's report was given.

Since the last meeting we have signed up one new member and our only expense was for mailing notices about the Novice class.

We have decided to hold the 1983 auction at the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, since the cost will be less than half that for the High School. The date will be April 16, with set up at 9:00 a.m., check in starting at 10:00 and the auction

itself starting at 11:00.

Art Thompson, KALENP, gave a report on the Novice class. There were 18 present for the second meeting and everything is going just fine.

The discussion of the ARRL's Special Service Club program was continued.

The meeting was closed at 8:29 p.m.

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

We would like to welcome to the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society Bob Drapeau of Bellingham who joined at the January 20 meeting. Bob is currently working toward his Novice license. We wish you success on you license studies, Bob, and hope you will be able to take an active part in the club's activities.

ANNOUNCEMENT

During the month of March we will have not one but two guest speakers! At the March 3 meeting we will have Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, whose subject will be satellite television. Fred is the owner of Channel One, Inc. which sells satellite TV reception equipment and he is also a lawyer so he should be able to provide insight on both the technical and legal sides of satellite TV.

At the March 17 meeting we will have Hank Lysaght, account manager for New England Telephone based at Western Electric in North Andover. He is a fiber optics specialist and will speak on three parts of this subject: 1) present technology, 2) Boston light wave system (10,000 miles of fiber optics in actual use for telephone connections in and around Boston), and 3) the future of fiber optics.

Both talks will provide some insight on a piece of very current technology. Each meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. Hope to see you there.

ELECTRONICS EXCHANGE

For Sale: Heathkit HW-8 QRP transceiver with Heath headphones and power supply, asking \$100. Barker Williamson portable whip antenna, with 80-40-15-10-6 meter coverage, \$35.00. National NC-77X short wave receiver, \$10.00. Contact George Young, W1YAU, 5 Abbot Street, Wellesley, Mass. 02181. Phone 237-3593.

For Sale: Kenwood TS-520 transceiver, 80-10 meters, 200 watts. Includes crystal CW filter and RF attenuator, cords, manual, and mic. Asking \$425. Contact Jim Idelson, K1IR, 990 Levona Road, North Attleboro, Mass. 02760.

CHUCKLE KORNELL

by Mark Johnson, N7DYS
from "QRP Quarterly"

Having been a member of the scientific community at one time (I took a biology course in college) I have always been interested in peculiar phenomena. It is with great pride that I reveal a bizarre phenomenon that is showing up on the Amateur bands. I call it The Dinner Bell Syndrome.

This particular syndrome is really not new. Anyone who is familiar with the work of Pavlov and his drooling dogs will probably be able to identify this syndrome without much difficulty. As with Pavlov's dogs, certain stimuli create a "drooling" response in many Amateur Radio operators. This response is directly related to admitted QRP operation.

In order to study this phenomenon I set some conditions that would be stringently followed during the experiment. First, output power would be limited to only 2 watts at the most. Second, only CW operation would be used in the initial experiment because of license restrictions and the attitude of the FCC in regard to Tech-

nicians using SSB in the HF bands. Third, no admission of QRP operation would be made until the signal report was received from the other operator. If this report was over 569 I would advise the receiving operator of the low power level.

After only a brief period of operation I discovered an unusual pattern developing. When I was given a signal report of 569 or more I would immediately respond with "TNX OM QRP HR ONLY 2 WTS OUT." In virtually every instance this admission was followed with "SRI OM BUT XYL SEZ DINNER IS RDY."

What conclusions can be drawn from this experiment? First, the grocers of this nation will soon see a dramatic increase in the amount of money spent in their stores. This will be good for the grocers but bad for the harried housewife who is already struggling with an impossible household budget.

Second, more and more ham operators will begin eating meals with the rest of the family. Thanks to QRP operation more families in this country and around the world will see that one individual who has been absent from the table for so long.

While this study is not totally conclusive, it can be stated with a high degree of certainty that QRP operation is directly related to the triggering of a hunger response in many Amateur Radio operators. Further experimentation on SSB will be needed before a final conclusion can be drawn about this mode, but it is almost certain to create a similar response.

NEW ENGLAND REPORT

Activity on 10 MHz had decreased significantly in recent weeks. The low interest level may be due in part to the absence of WAS or DXCC credit for contacts on the new band. Conditions have steadily improved, with long-path DX possible in the late afternoon. Thanks W1JR.

New England Report, January 15, 1983

Auctions / Flea Markets

March 12: Interstate Repeater Society Flea Market, at the Lions Club, Lions Avenue, Hudson, N.H. Doors open at 8:00 a.m., flea market is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission \$1.00, tables \$7.00 Talk in on 146.25/85 and 146.52. For more information, contact WBLANG, 603-893-9577 or NLAQ, 603-883-5462.

April 16: Our own Wellesley Amateur Radio Society annual spring auction, to be held at a new site this year, the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, 207 Washington Street (Route 16), Wellesley. This is right at the intersection of Routes 9 and 16. Club members are needed for set up starting at 9:00 a.m., doors open for check in at 10:00 a.m. and the auction starts at 11:00 a.m. Talk in on 147.63/03 and 146.52.

NEW ENGLAND REPORT

Boston area Amateurs are investigating the possibility of establishing a simplex repeater on 2 meters. Len Long, W1ZTL and others envision a machine which would behave like an electronic mailbox, storing and forwarding Morse, RTTY, SSTV, and ASCII information on demand. Users with unique access codes could play back messages addressed to them. A simplex autopatch is also under consideration. Long's group has already accumulated some of the computer and radio equipment necessary for the project. On Tuesday evenings the group meets at his home to build and discuss circuitry.

New England Report, January 15, 1983

Barry Goldwater's club station was closed January 15. The termination of K7UGA (and MARS station AFC6BG), announced late December, was due to the increasing cost of equipment maintenance as well as a large drop in the volume of overseas military traffic. From August, 1967 to December, 1982

the two stations handled over 195,000 phone patches and 90,000 written messages. Thanks WB7TPY.

New England Report, January 15, 1983

"New Tickets"

Early in February six members of our fall General class went before the FCC in Boston to try to upgrade their licenses. We are happy to report that all six managed to come away with a higher class license, three with Technicians and three with Generals. Congratulations to all!

THE WESTLINK REPORT THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

A SWL in Finland is convinced that the Soviet RS-1 satellite has come back to life. Birger Lindholm claims to have heard the beacon transmitter on 29.401 MHz, and other sources indicate that the transponder itself has been worked. No confirmation has been made of the latter claim.

There may be as many as twenty satellites in the Russian ISKRA program, according to Pat Gowan, G3IOR. As covered by Amateur Satellite Report, Gowan reported that the next in the ISKRA series may be orbited in December, and that now all ISKRAs will be for Amateur Radio use. Both the ISKRAs and the RS series are built at the Moscow Aviation Institute.

Westlink Report, February 11, 1983

A volunteer examination program of some sort appears likely to be tried at the 1983 Dayton Hamvention. Although a letter to the FCC from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association that requests testing authority has not as yet been acted on by the Commissioners, discussions between the club and the FCC indicate that the needed waiver to Part 97.28 will be forthcoming. If the waiver is granted, the 1983 Dayton Hamvention will be the first place where examinations for all license classes will be given by volunteers.

Westlink Report, February 11, 1983

THE WESTLINK REPORT

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

The AMTOR-RTTY system was approved for use in the high frequency Amateur bands on January 27. AMTOR is a synchronous RTTY technique similar to the marine "SITOR" mode and verifies message content accuracy. This permits communicating with much lower signal levels than RTTY otherwise requires. A number of Amateur HF stations have been experimenting with this computer code under FCC waivers and its use on the VHF/UHF bands was approved (along with the use of other computer codes) September 21st under Report and Order on Docket 81-699. It is expected that ARRL bulletin station WLAW will be making use of AMTOR shortly. Thanks W9JUV and S. Lett (FCC).

Westlink Report, February 11, 1983

"Timeout!"

By Mike Adlerstein, K1FB

Those who frequent 2 meter FM may have heard me crowing about the virtues of RTTY. A few weeks ago I got on this mode after years of procrastination. I was always fascinated by the clatter of those monster Model 19 and 28 printers.

It was the size and complexity of these printers which kept many, including myself, off RTTY. Now, everything has changed. Modern microprocessors, either in home computers or specialized RTTY equipment, has made the mode neat, clean, simple and relatively cheap. Scanning QST will show you how to get on RTTY for under \$300.

My plan was to set up a RTTY station during a low in the sunspot/DX cycle. I am using a HAL CT2100 terminal and a video monitor.

I find many stations on the air using RTTY. Most are quick to tell you how much fun the mode is and I agree. In addition to QSO's, I can copy the ARRL bulletins at 60 wpm and

100 wpm. Also, I have discovered an interesting service on 40 meter RTTY: the so-called MSO station.

This is an automatic station which monitors a given frequency with RTTY into a computer. You send computer type commands to it such as "read", "write", etc. By doing so, you can remotely store a message for another station, or a general message (such as "For Sale" or "Wanted"...). And this message can be accessed by anyone interested.

The RTTY mode is so "high tech" that I even impressed some of my "hohum" non Ham friends.

If you have been thinking of RTTY, it's a good time to get serious. You'll be glad you did.

NEW ENGLAND REPORT

The Mount Greylock repeater has won an indefinite stay of eviction from its site. Supporters of the famed western Massachusetts repeater won passage of a bill in the state legislature that gives the Norther Berkshire Amateur Radio Club responsibility for maintaining the tower on which the repeater antenna is located. The site had been previously owned and maintained by the State Police, but when they moved, the state's Department of Environmental Management ordered that the tower be removed. Amateurs, with the backing of numerous legislators, forced a showdown in the Natural Resources Committee and Hams came out victorious.

New England Report, January 15, 1983

ANNOUNCEMENT

Is your ARRL membership coming up for renewal or are you planning to become an ARRL member? If so, please send your membership through the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society. When you do, \$2.00 of your ARRL membership stays with our club. Send your ARRL renewal or membership to C.J. McDonald, 48 Hale Street, Newton, Mass. 02164.